

**Rhetorical Analysis / Close Reading: Multiple-Choice Stems**  
**From the AP Literature and Composition exam:**

1. What is the author's attitude toward the subject of the essay?
2. What is this passage about?
3. What does the phrase, \_\_\_\_\_, mean?
4. How would you characterize the style of the passage?
5. Which of the following best summarizes the main point in lines \_\_\_\_\_?
6. What is the main point in \_\_\_\_\_? (the passage, the second paragraph, etc.)
7. How would you restate the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_?
8. How would you define the phrase \_\_\_\_\_?
9. What is the speaker's purpose in \_\_\_\_\_?
10. What thought is reflected in the allusion \_\_\_\_\_?
11. What is the tone of the passage?
12. How would you define the word \_\_\_\_\_?
13. How would you describe the diction and style of the passage?
14. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, what is the speaker asserting?
15. Why is \_\_\_\_\_ described as \_\_\_\_\_?
16. What is significant about the structure of sentence # \_\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_\_?
17. In sentences \_\_\_\_\_, what contrasts are developed or implied?
18. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, why does the author pair quotations?
19. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, what is the effect of pairing quotations?
20. What is the dominant technique used in lines \_\_\_\_\_?
21. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, what is the effect of using a metaphor?
22. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, juxtaposing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ serves the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_.
22. The attitude of the entire passage (or parts of the passage) is one of . . .
23. What is the tone of the passage?
24. How would you characterize the diction and style of the passage?
25. What is the speaker asserting in lines \_\_\_\_\_?
26. In relation to the passage as a whole, the statement in the first sentence presents . . .  
[syntax]
27. The second sentence (line \_\_\_\_ ) is unified by metaphorical references pertaining to . . .
28. The sentence \_\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_\_ contains which of the following?
29. Describe the structure of the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_.
30. What contrast does the speaker develop in lines \_\_\_\_\_?
31. What effect is achieved by the speaker's using the phrases \_\_\_\_\_?
32. What dominant technique is the speaker using in lines \_\_\_\_\_?
33. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is a metaphorical way of saying \_\_\_\_\_.
34. What does the author achieve by juxtaposing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
35. What does the choice of words show about the speaker's beliefs?
36. Where is there a shift of tone in the passage?
37. The reason for the shift in tone is due to . . .
38. The tone of the passage shifts from one of \_\_\_\_\_ to one of \_\_\_\_\_.
39. The syntax in lines \_\_\_\_\_ serves to \_\_\_\_\_.
40. What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject?
41. What assumptions does the speaker make about the audience?
42. It can be inferred by the description of \_\_\_\_\_ that which of the following

qualities are valued by the speaker?

43. How does the author seek to interest us in the first paragraph?

44. What method does the author use to develop the argument?

45. Line \_\_\_\_\_ is parallel to what other line in the passage?

46. What can you infer about the author's attitudes toward the subject?

47. What is the antecedent for \_\_\_\_\_?

48. What type of argument is the author using in this passage?

49. What pattern of exposition is the author using in this passage?

50. What is the atmosphere established in lines \_\_\_\_\_?

51. Why is the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_ coherent, despite its length?

52. In line \_\_\_\_\_, the use of \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_ accomplishes what?

53. What is the function of \_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?

54. What is the subject of the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_?

55. The primary rhetorical function of lines \_\_\_\_\_ is to . . .

56. The main rhetorical strategy of the \_\_\_\_\_ paragraph is for the purpose of . . .

57. What does the author apparently believe about the subject?

58. What does the author believe we should do in response to this passage?

59. The author uses this (certain image) for the purpose of . . .

60. The principal contrast employed by the author in the passage/paragraph is between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

61. Why is the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_ remarkable?

62. The antecedent for \_\_\_\_\_ in the clause \_\_\_\_\_ is . . .

63. The pattern of exposition exemplified in the passage is best described as . . .

64. The point of view indicated in the phrase \_\_\_\_\_ in line \_\_\_\_\_ is that of . . .

65. The atmosphere established in the \_\_\_\_\_ sentence of paragraph \_\_\_\_\_ is mainly one of . . .

66. The function of the clauses introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_\_ is to . . .

67. What is the function of paragraph \_\_\_\_\_? of line \_\_\_\_\_?

68. In the passage, the speaker makes all of the following assumptions about his/her readers EXCEPT

69. The diction in the passage is best described as

70. One prominent stylistic characteristic of the \_\_\_\_\_ paragraph is the use of \_\_\_\_\_